

10-18-01
03CO #4
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: PACE MICRO TECHNOLOGY PLC)
)
Application No.: 09/944,527)
)
Filing Date: 08/31/01)
)
Title: TELEVISION SYSTEM)
)
Art Unit: UNKNOWN)



TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Director for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of British Patent Application No. 0021549.1
for which the above-identified patent application claims priority from.


If, for any reason, this priority document is not acceptable, please inform the
undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Date: 10/17/01

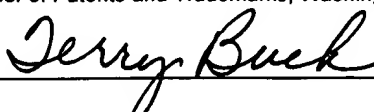
Customer No. 24,118


Mark G. Kachigian, Reg. No. 32,840
228 West 17th Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(918) 584-4187
Attorney for Applicant

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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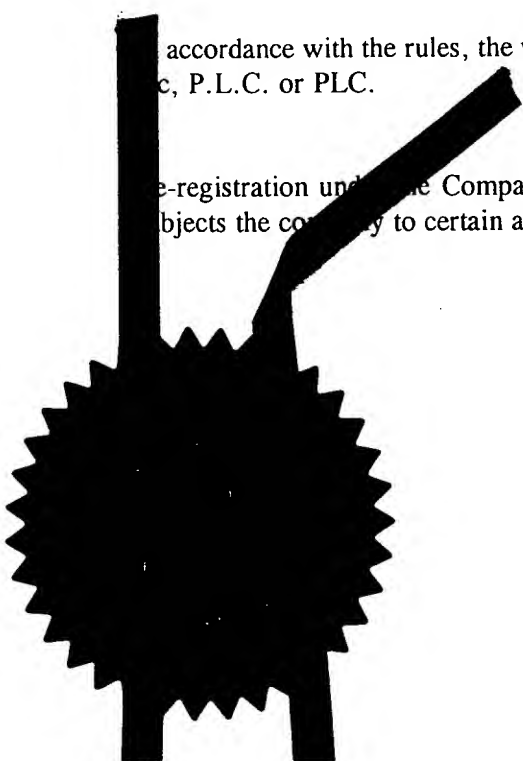
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1. Your reference

AT-0301590 E565304-10 D00346
LP01/7700 0.00-0021549.12. Patent application number
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0021549.1

2 SEP 2000

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of
each applicant *(underline all surnames)***Pace Micro Technology Plc**Victoria Road
Saltaire
Shipley
BD18 3LFPatents ADP number *(if you know it)*If the applicant is a corporate body, give the
country/state of its incorporation7588569001
U.K.

4. Title of the invention

Television System

5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)*

Bailey Walsh & Co.

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
*(including the postcode)*5, York Place
Leeds
LS1 2SDPatents ADP number *(if you know it)*

224001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more
earlier patent applications, give the
and the date of filing of the or of each of these
earlier applications and *(if you know it)* the or
each application number

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- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 5

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 141

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many of each item.

Priority Documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (Please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature

Date

B. Tomkinson

01.09.00

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom
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Television System

This invention relates to a television system, and particularly to a television system incorporating an Electronic Programme Guide.

A television system hereinafter described includes a broadcaster for transmitting digital data via terrestrial, cable or digital means, which is received by a broadcast data receiver (called a set top box). The digital data results in a large number of channels and programs available for selection by a user. Conventional listing means for the large number of channels and programs are inadequate and this has resulted in the development of Electronic Programme Guides (EPGs).

Conventionally, when a program is broadcast which contains material of an adult nature, such as bad language, violence, nudity and/or the like, a verbal warning is typically given by the television presenter/announcer before the programme begins. However, if a user tunes into a programme once the programme has started, the user will miss the warning regarding the subject matter of the programme. This may result in distress to the user when they are exposed to the material of an adult nature, which is undesirable. This is particularly undesirable if the user is a child.

Television systems are available which allow a user to set a PIN number which blocks certain programmes and/or channels until the PIN number is entered. However, this PIN number is of no use with channels, such as BBC1, which show a wide range of programming. These channels show programmes which are normally suitable for family viewing but on certain occasions broadcast films or documentaries which are unsuitable for family viewing and which may issue a verbal warning before the

programme begins. It is not practical for a PIN number to be used on all available channels as every time a user switched channels or watches a programme, the user would have to input a PIN number.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to overcome the abovementioned problems.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for generation of audio/visual and auxiliary data, said television system receiving programme information and wherein said television system is provided with a means to analyse the programme information of a channel and/or programme which is selected to be viewed and generate a warning if pre-determined criteria are detected in the channel and/or programme information.

Typically the programme information referred to is that which is transmitted and used to generate an EPG display.

Preferably the warning is displayed on the display screen. Alternatively, or in addition to, the warning can be displayed on a display means on the remote control.

In one embodiment the warning can be a audible warning. The warning can be repeated at pre-set time intervals during the broadcast of a particular programme.

In one embodiment the warning is displayed according predetermined criteria such as key words and/or codes determined by the broadcaster, or a pre-determined message transmitted, which is then processed and identified by the receiver.

In a further embodiment the user can select the pre-determined criteria by selecting a number of key words or topics from a drop down menu on the display screen for which a warning is to be issued if the words or topics are found in the programme information of the EPG. For example, a warning can be issued to show that a programme or channel contains adult material. Alternatively, a warning can be issued to show that a programme is unsuitable for young children.

In one embodiment the receiver includes the warning display stored in memory and the same is generated on screen in conjunction with the relevant programme when the pre-determined criteria are identified.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying Figure.

Figure 1 shows a display screen according to the present invention.

Referring to Figure 1 there is illustrated a display screen 2 of a television system. The television system is provided with a means for searching and identifying predetermined criteria, such as keywords in programme and /or channel information provided in an EPG. If certain key words are found in the programme and/or channel information then a warning is displayed on the display screen in a window 4. For example, a warning symbol 6 is provided in addition to a written warning message indicating to the viewer that the programme contains material of adult nature. However, the warning symbol or message can be provided alone if required.